

PLATFORM ADOPTED BY BALTIMORE CONVENTION

Tariff for Revenue Only, Popular Election of Senators, Presidential Primaries, Single Term for President Important Features

The following platform was adopted by the democratic national convention:

We, the representatives of the democratic party of the United States, in national convention assembled, reaffirm our devotion to the principles of democratic government formulated by Thomas Jefferson and enforced by a long and illustrious line of democratic presidents.

Tariff Reform.

We declare it to be a fundamental principle of the democratic party that the federal government under the constitution has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties, except for the purpose of revenue, and we demand that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of government, honestly and economically administered.

The high republican tariff is the principal cause of the unequal distribution of wealth; it is a system of taxation which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer; under its operation, the American farmer and laboring man are the chief sufferers; it raises the cost of the necessities of life to them, but does not protect their product or wage. The farmer sells largely in free markets and buys almost entirely in the protected markets. In the most highly protected industries, such as cotton and wool, iron and steel, the wages of the laborers are the lowest paid in any of our industries.

We denounce the republican stand on the subject and assert that American wages are established by competitive conditions and not by the tariff.

We favor the immediate downward revision of the existing high and, in many cases prohibitive, tariff duties, insisting that material reductions be speedily made upon the necessities of life. Articles entering into competition with the trust-controlled products and articles of American manufacturing which are sold abroad more cheaply than at home should be put upon the free list.

We recognize that our system of tariff taxation is intimately connected with the business of the country and we favor the ultimate attainment of the principles we advocate by legislation that will not injure or destroy legitimate industry.

We denounce the action of President Taft in vetoing the bills to reduce the tariff in the cotton, woolen, metals and chemicals schedules and the farmers' free list bill, all of which were designed to give immediate relief to the masses from the exactions of the trusts.

The republican party, while promising tariff revision, has shown by the tariff legislation that such revision is not to be in the people's interest, and having been faithless to its pledges of 1908, it should no longer enjoy the confidence of the nation. We appeal to the American people to support us in our demand for a tariff for revenue only.

High Cost of Living.

The high cost of living is a serious problem in every American home. The republican party, in its platform, attempts to escape from responsibility for present conditions by denying that they are due to protective tariff. We take issue with them on this subject and charge that excessive prices result in a large measure from the high tariff laws enacted and maintained by the republican party and from trusts and commercial conspiracies fostered and encouraged by such laws, and we assert that no substantial relief can be secured for the people until import duties on the necessities of life are materially reduced and these criminal conspiracies broken up.

Anti-Trust Law.

A private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable. We therefore favor the vigorous enforcement of the criminal as well as the civil law, against trusts and trust officials, and demand enactment of such additional legislation as may be necessary to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist in the United States. We favor the declaration by law of the conditions upon which corporations shall be permitted to engage in interstate trade, including, among others, the prevention of hoarding, of stock watering, of discrimination in price, control by any corporation of so large a proportion of any industry as to make it a menace to competitive conditions.

We condemn the action of the republican administration in compromising with the Standard Oil Company and with the tobacco trust and its failure to invoke the criminal provisions of the anti-trust laws against those corporations after the court declared that from the undisputed facts in the record they had violated the criminal provisions of the law. We regret that the Sherman anti-trust law has received a judicial construction depriving it of much of its efficiency and we favor the enactment of legislation which will restore to the statute the strength of which it is deprived by such interpretation.

Rights of the State.

We believe in the preservation and maintenance in their full strength and integrity of the three co-ordinate branches of the federal government—the executive, the legislative and the judicial—each keeping within its bounds and not encroaching upon the just powers of each of the others.

Believing that the most efficient results under our system of government are to be attained by the full exercise by the states of their reserve sovereign powers, we denounce as usurpation the efforts of our opponents to deprive the states of any

of the rights reserved to them, and to enlarge and magnify by indirection the powers of the federal government.

We insist on the full exercise of all the powers of the government, both state and national, to protect the people from injustice at the hands of those who seek to make the government a private asset in business. There is no twilight zone between the nation and the state in which exploiting interests can take refuge from both. It is as necessary that the federal government shall exercise the powers reserved to them, but we insist that federal remedies for the regulation of interstate commerce and for the prevention of private monopoly shall be added to and not substituted for state remedies.

Income Tax and Popular Election of Senators.

We congratulate the country upon the triumph of two important reforms demanded in the last national platform—namely, an amendment to the federal constitution authorizing an income tax and the amendment providing for the popular election of senators, and we call upon the people of all the states to rally to the support of the pending propositions for further ratification.

We note with gratification the unanimous sentiment in favor of publicity, before the election, of campaign contributions, a measure demanded in our national platform of 1908 and at that time opposed by the republican party, and we commend the democratic house of representatives for extending the doctrine of publicity to recommendations, verbal and written, upon which presidential appointments are made, to the ownership and control of newspapers and to the expenditures made by and in behalf of those who aspire to the presidential nomination, and we point for additional justification for this legislation to the enormous expenditures of money in behalf of the president and his predecessor in the recent contest for the republican nomination for president.

Presidential Primaries.

The movement towards more popular government should be promoted through legislation in each state which will permit the exception of the preference of the electors for national candidates at presidential primaries.

We direct that the national committee incorporate in the call for the next nominating convention a requirement that all expressions of preference for presidential candidates shall be given and the selection of delegates and alternates made through a primary election conducted by the party organization in each state where such expression and election are not provided for by state law. Committeemen who are hereafter to constitute the membership of the democratic national committee and whose election is not provided for by law shall be chosen in each state at such primary elections and the service and authority of committeemen, however chosen, shall begin immediately upon the receipt of their credentials, respectively.

Campaign Contributions.

We pledge the democratic party to the enactment of a law prohibiting any corporation from contributing to a campaign fund and any individual from contributing any amount above a reasonable maximum.

Terms of President.

We favor a single presidential term, and to that end urge the adoption of an amendment to the constitution, making the president of the United States ineligible for re-election, and we pledge the candidate of this convention to this principle.

Democratic Congress.

At this time, when the republican party, after a generation of unlimited power in its control of the federal government, is rent into factions, it is opportune to point to the record of accomplishments of the democratic house of representatives in the sixty-second congress. We endorse its action and we challenge comparison of its record with that of any congress which has been controlled by our opponents.

We call attention of the patriotic citizens of our country to its record of efficiency, economy and constructive legislation.

It has, among other achievements, revised the rules of the house of representatives, so as to give to the representatives of the American people freedom of speech under action in advocating, proposing and perfecting remedial legislation.

It has proposed bills for the relief of the people and the development of our country. It has endeavored to revise the tariff taxes downward in the interest of the consuming masses and thus to reduce the high cost of living.

It has proposed an amendment to the federal constitution providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

It has secured the admission of Arizona and New Mexico as two sovereign states.

It has required the publicity of campaign expenses both before and after election and fixed a limit upon the election expenses of United States senators and representatives.

It has also passed a bill to prevent the abuse of the writ of injunction.

It has passed a law establishing an eight-hour day for workmen on all national public work.

It has passed a resolution which forced the president to take immediate steps to abrogate the Russian treaty.

And it has passed the great supply

Dr. Wilson and His Wife, Who Shares His Public Interests



Photo of Dr. Wilson copyright, 1912, by American Press Association.

If the Democratic candidate is elected to the presidency the next mistress of the White House will be a woman keenly alive to the issues of the day and with a lively interest in all public questions. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson believes that—to use her own words—"the successful wife is one who meets her husband at every turn; she must be his intellectual complement as well as his companion." During Dr. Wilson's term as governor of New Jersey she has accompanied him on his visits to public institutions, showing a particular interest in the asylums for the feeble minded. Governor and Mrs. Wilson have three daughters, one of whom is specializing in the study of music, another in that of art, while the third, following her mother's bent, is engaged in social settlement work.

bills which lessen waste and extravagance and which reduce the annual expenses of the government by many millions dollars.

We approve the measure reported by the democratic leaders in the house of representatives for the creation of a council of national defense which will determine a definite naval program with a view to increased efficiency and economy. The party that proclaimed and has always enforced the Monroe doctrine and was sponsor for the new navy will continue faithfully to observe the constitutional requirements to provide and maintain an adequate and well-proportioned navy sufficient to defend American policies, protect our citizens and uphold the honor and dignity of the nation.

Republican Extravagance.

We denounce the profligate waste of the money wrung from the people by oppressive taxation, through the lavish appropriations of recent republican congresses, which have kept taxes high and reduced the purchasing power of the people's toil. We demand a return to that simplicity and economy which befits a democratic government and a reduction in the number of useless offices, the salaries of which drain the substance of the people.

Railroads, Express Companies, Telegraph and Telephone Lines.

We favor the efficient supervision and rate regulation of railroads, express companies, telegraph and telephone lines engaged in interstate commerce. To this end we recommend the valuation of railroads, express companies, telegraph and telephone lines by the interstate commerce commission, such valuation to take into consideration the physical value of the property, the original cost, the cost of reproduction, and any element of value that will render the valuation fair and just.

We favor such legislation as will effectually prohibit the railroads, express, telegraph and telephone companies from engaging in business which brings them into competition with their shippers or patrons; also legislation preventing the overissue of stocks and bonds by interstate railroads, express companies, telegraph and telephone lines, and legislation which will assure such reduction in transportation rates as conditions will permit, care being taken to avoid reduction that would compel a reduction of wages, prevent adequate service or do injustice to legitimate investments.

Banking Legislation.

We oppose the so-called Aldrich bill or the establishment of a central bank, and we believe the progress of the country will be largely freed from panics and consequent unemployment and business depression by such a systematic revision of our banking laws as will render temporary relief in localities where such relief is needed, with protection from control or domination by what is known as the money trust.

Banks exist for the accommodation of the public and not for the control of business. All legislation on the subject of banking and currency have for its purpose the secur-

appropriation by the federal government of sufficient funds to make surveys of such lands, to development plans for draining the same, and to supervise the work of construction.

We favor the adoption of a liberal and comprehensive plan for the development and improvement of our inland waterways with economy and efficiency so as to permit their navigation by vessels of standard draft.

Post Roads.

We favor national aid to state and local authorities in the construction and maintenance of post roads.

Rights of Labor.

We repeat our declarations of the platform of 1908 as follows:

The courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberties and we yield to none in our purpose to maintain their dignity. Our party has given to the bench a long line of distinguished justices, who have added to the respect and confidence in which this department must be jealously maintained.

We resent the attempt of the republican party to raise a false issue respecting the judiciary. It is an unjust reflection upon a great body of our citizens to assume that they lack respect for the courts.

It is the function of the courts to interpret the laws which the people enact, and if the laws appear to work economic, social or political injustice, it is our duty to change them. The only basis upon which the integrity of our courts can stand is that of unswerving justice and protection of life, personal liberty and property. As judicial processes may be abused we should guard them against abuse.

Experience has proved the necessity of a modification of the present law relating to injunction, and we reiterate the pledges of our platform of 1896 and 1904 in favor of a measure which passed the United States senate in 1906 relating to contempt in federal courts and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt. Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We believe that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality and that injunctions should not be issued in any case in which an injunction would not issue if no industrial dispute were involved.

The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgement of the right of the wage earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions, to the end that such labor organizations should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

We pledge the democratic party to the enactment of a law creating a department of labor represented separately in the president's cabinet in which department shall be included the subject of mines and mining.

We pledge the democratic party, as far as the federal jurisdiction extends, to an employee's compensation law providing adequate indemnity for injury to body or loss of life.

Conservation.

We believe in the conservation and the development for the use of all the people of the natural resources of the country. Our forests, our sources of water supply, our arable and our mineral lands, and our navigable streams and all the other material resources with which our country has been so lavishly endowed constitute the foundation of our national wealth. Such additional legislation as may be necessary to prevent their being wasted or absorbed by special or privileged interests, should be enacted and the policy of their conservation should be rigidly adhered to.

The public domain should be administered and disposed of with due regard to the general welfare. Reservations should be limited to the purposes which they purport to serve and not extended to include land wholly unsuited therefor. The unnecessary withdrawal from sale and settlement of enormous tracts of public land upon which tree growth never existed, and cannot be promoted, tends only to retard development, create discontent and bring reproach upon the policy of conservation.

The public land laws should be administered in a spirit of the broadest liberality toward the settler exhibiting a bona fide purpose to comply therewith, to the end that the invitation of this government to the landless should be as attractive as possible; and the plain provisions of the forest reserve act permitting homestead entries to be made with in the national forests should not be nullified by administrative regulations which amount to a withdrawal of great areas of the same from settlement.

Immediate action should be taken by congress to make available the vast and valuable coal deposits of Alaska under conditions that will be a perfect guaranty against their falling into the hands of monopolizing corporations, associations or interests.

We rejoice in the inheritance of mineral resources unequalled in extent, variety or value, and in the development of a mining industry unequalled in its magnitude and importance. And we pledge ourselves to the extension of the work of the bureau of mines in every way appropriate for national legislation with a view of safeguarding the lives of miners, lessening the wastes of essential resources and promoting the economic development of mining, which, along with agriculture, must in the future, even more than in the past, serve as the very foundation of our national prosperity and welfare and our international commerce.

Agriculture.

We believe in encouraging the development of a modern system of agriculture and a systematic effort to improve the conditions of trade in farm products so as to benefit both the consumers and producers. And as an efficient means to this end, we favor the enactment by congress of legislation that will suppress the per-

nicious practice of gambling in agricultural products by organized exchanges or others.

Merchant Marine.

We believe in fostering by constitutional regulation of commerce, the growth of a merchant marine, which shall develop and strengthen the commercial ties which bind us to our sister republics of the south, but without imposing additional burdens upon the people and without bounties or subsidies from the public treasury.

We urge upon congress the speedy enactment of laws for the greater security of life and property at sea and we favor the repeal of all laws and the abrogation of so much of our treaties with other nations as provide for the arrest and imprisonment of seamen charged with desertion or with violation of their contract of service. Such laws and treaties are un-American and violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the constitution of the United States.

We favor the exemption from tolls of American ships engaged in coastwise trade passing through the Panama canal.

We also favor legislation forbidding the use of the Panama canal by ships owned or controlled by railroad companies engaged in transportation competitive with the canal.

Pure Food and Public Health.

We reaffirm our previous declarations advocating the union and strengthening of the various governmental agencies relating to pure foods, quarantine, vital statistics and human health. Thus united and administered without partiality to or discrimination against any school of medicine or system of healing, they would constitute a single health service, not subordinate to any commercial or financial interests but devoted exclusively to the conservation of human life and efficiency. Moreover, this health service should co-operate with the health agencies of our various states and cities without interference with their prerogatives or with the freedom of individuals to employ such medical or hygienic aid as they may see fit.

Civil Service Law.

The law pertaining to the civil service should honestly and rigidly be enforced, to the end that merit and ability shall be the standard of appointment and promotion, rather than service rendered to a political party; and we favor a reorganization of the civil service with adequate compensation commensurate with the class of work performed, for all officers and employees; we also favor the extension to all classes of civil service employees of the benefits of the provisions of the employer's liability compensation act. We also recognize the right of direct petition to congress by employees for the redress of grievances.

Law Reform.

We recognize the urgent need of reform in the civil and criminal law in the United States and we recommend the enactment of such legislation and the promotion of such measures as will rid the present legal system of the delays, expense and uncertainties incident to the system as now administered.

The Philippines.

We reaffirm the position thus announced by the democracy in national convention assembled, against a policy of imperialism and colonial exploitation in the Philippines or elsewhere. We condemn the experiment in imperialism as an inexcusable blunder which has involved us in enormous expense, brought us weakness instead of strength, and laid our nation open to the charge of abandonment of the fundamental doctrine of self-government.

We favor an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippine islands as soon as a stable government can be established, such independence to be guaranteed by us until the neutralization of the islands can be secured by treaty with other powers. In recognizing the independence of the Philippines, our government should retain such land as may be necessary for coaling stations and naval bases.

Arizona and New Mexico.

We welcome New Mexico and Arizona to the sisterhood of states and heartily congratulate them upon their auspicious beginning of great and glorious careers.

Alaska.

We demand for the people of Alaska the full enjoyment of the rights and privileges of a territorial form of government and we believe that the officials approached to administer the government of all our territories and the District of Columbia should be qualified by previous bona fide residence.

The Russian Treaty.

We commend the patriotism of the democratic members of the senate and house of representatives which compelled the termination of the Russian treaty of 1832 and we pledge ourselves anew to preserve the sacred rights of American citizenship at home and abroad. No treaty should receive the sanction of our government which does not recognize that equality of all of our citizens, irrespective of race or creed, and which does not expressly guarantee the fundamental right of expatriation.

The constitutional rights of American citizens should protect them on our borders and go with them throughout the world, and every American citizen receiving or having property in any foreign country is entitled to and must be given the full protection of the United States government, both for himself and his property.

Parcels Post and Rural Delivery.
We favor the establishment of a parcels post or postal express, and also the extension of the rural delivery system as rapidly as practicable.

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